

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 763
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Eben Gilbert on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eben Gilbert is one such estimable person who has served the State with distinction for twenty-two years and will soon be taking a much deserved retirement from Taft Youth Center; and

WHEREAS, after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education from David Lipscomb University in 1960, Dr. Gilbert earned a Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling from Southern Christian University in 1976 and a Master of Arts in Education from Tennessee Technological University in 1981; after studying at the David Elton Trueblood Yokefellows Academy of Applied Christianity at Earlham College, Dr. Gilbert obtained his Minister of Common Life Degree in 1985 and, always striving to better himself, he earned his Doctorate of Education in Administration and Supervision in 1992 from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gilbert began his excellent career in education with the Harlan County Board of Education in Kentucky where he served with dedication from 1960 until 1963 as a Music Teacher, Band Director, and Chorus Director; his service to the State of Tennessee commenced in 1963 where he served as a Music Teacher, Band Teacher, Chorus Director, and Civics Teacher for the McMinnville City School System; after a brief interlude as Minister and Counselor for the Staten Island Church of Christ in New York from 1969-1971, Dr. Gilbert returned to Tennessee in 1971 as a Teacher with the Warren County School System, and in 1979, he became the Principal of Boyd Christian School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gilbert embarked upon a meritorious tenure with the Taft Youth Center in 1982 as Principal of the Center; after spending two years at Taft, he agreed to help start the Tennessee Correctional Academy (TCA) at Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, writing and implementing the original curricula and schedule for the TCA, Dr. Gilbert served as the first Youth Service Staff Training Supervisor at the TCA for the Tennessee Department of Corrections and the Department of Youth Development; and

WHEREAS, after more than eleven years at the TCA, Dr. Gilbert returned to the Taft Youth Center as the Manager of Treatment, in which capacity he has served with acumen and alacrity for the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Gilbert has been responsible for the development and implementation of numerous programs in the educational systems which have employed him; and

WHEREAS, his myriad accolades include participation in the Mid-South Educational Research for the American Association of Correctional Trainers; association with Phi Delta Kappa and the Society of Christian Philosophers; inclusion as one of the "50 Most Outstanding Persons in Warren County in the 20th Century" in *The Southern Standard's* special edition; selection as the ideal "Mr. Warren County" by readers of *The Southern Standard* in April 2000; and presenting at the Tennessee Association for Child Care's Annual Conference in Memphis in May of 1999. Dr. Gilbert is also an astute member of the American Association for Christian Counselors and the Evangelical Philosophical Society; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Dr. Gilbert holds numerous licenses and is well-published, facts attributable to his hard work and indicative of his success; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community, Dr. Gilbert has lent his support to the Alliance for Community Outreach, in which he has served as a Counselor; has taught court-ordered Anger Management classes; has served as an EAP Counselor for several area businesses; and has taught Parenting Classes, as well as Family and Individual Classes, in the evenings and on weekends; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of positive community involvement, Dr. Gilbert intends to continue counseling at the Atrium in McMinnville; and

WHEREAS, in the coming years, Dr. Gilbert will more than likely be found pursuing his hobbies of reading, writing, and playing the drums, harmonica, banjo, and the ukulele, as he enjoys his blissful days of retirement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gilbert exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Eben Gilbert has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity in his dedication to the youth of Tennessee, and has won the unbridled respect and admiration of his students, colleagues, and superiors alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Eben Gilbert our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.